

Historical  
Pamphlet File

Hingham, Mass. -  
Tuttle Village

Hingham Public Library

66 Leavitt Street

Hingham, Mass. 02043

THE EMMA WILLARD SCHOOL  
Troy, New York

Return Postage Guaranteed

Geo. Wingquist

about shoe shop on  
Friend St  
also Tuttle Village  
History  
By Gayton's father  
Urban Sidney Bates  
1900.

**For Reference**

**Not to be taken from this room**



## Concerning Tuttle Village

Any history of the South part of Birmingham would be incomplete if it did not include extended reference to Tuttle Village - That hamlet on Ward Street ~~and~~ near Weymouth Line starting with one now grown to half a dozen or more substantial modern dwelling continuously and exclusively occupied by colored people for more than a hundred years.

The first settler was James Tuttle - not the James that some of us knew and remember but his father who was brought from some southern port by Capt. Marcus Lane. James Tuttle was born in Africa. I make this statement with much confidence although I must admit that consulting <sup>in time by past</sup> with people I thought <sup>present day</sup> should know I have been unable to confirm it. His descendants never heard it - thought he came from So. Carolina. I knew that too. My information came from my father and I have a distinct and vivid recollection of hearing him ~~say~~ say that old man Tuttle boasted that he had heard the lions roar in Africa.



education and could not have read if it now was  
Spicer said its likely to have been a subject of  
comment as of story telling in his hearing moreover all  
the older blacks in America would appear to have  
come more or less directly from the West continent

Capt. Thomas Lane related to all the older <sup>living</sup> families  
of that name was a Master Mariner who sailed to and  
from our southern ports. How he came to bring James Tuttle  
here I never heard. It appears that he was hired man  
servant and perhaps for life and there was much of  
that devotion so often noticed between servant and  
master in the south. Did anyone ask the old man  
his age. He was just old as Capt Lane. All concerned  
had of course died before my time. These legends  
have been gathered <sup>from</sup> memories of sayings overheard  
in my youth.

The second family in Tuttleville were the  
Simpsons, a large family coming from Weymouth.  
I used to think and sometime I am sure that I heard  
that they were shovled over into King. by prejudiced people  
or fear that they might become paupers in Weymouth. But  
a daughter aged but still living informs me that  
was not so. They lived on Essex St. near Weymouth  
Town Farm and one day their dwelling was burned



was not so. The land on which the house  
now stands was bought by the family  
and was then divided into two lots.

and her father chose his new residence in Tattleville. Their  
old neighbors helped them to the new location and three  
premises to Weymouth were built. They had the land in  
trust for many years. in fact the transfer has been  
made the title was never fully closed.

The Simpson family came to Wingham from Wey.  
about 1853. a numerous family - there were 18 children  
by two fathers - brothers and one mother most of them born  
in Wey. the younger ones here. As only two died young and  
another married and raised families. relatives  
descendants are more scattered through all the surrounding  
towns. The first brothers Simpson were born in Littleport.

I used to suppose they came from Cuba, but learned later  
that Geo. being in youth a sailor, cruising much in  
Southern waters. his reminiscence of Cuba gave abroad  
the impression that he came from there.

The young in youth the generation attended school  
as some do now. Some were in our schoolmaster  
other mates of my older sister. The young men  
all became shoe makers and later joining hands in the  
modern factories in middle life I worked here.

any the  
might be  
side of  
of Saker,  
Parscott  
shadows  
In  
is the a  
within  
the re  
in the  
The g  
birth  
set work  
1816 &  
the farm  
He  
infirmary  
not see  
required



several of them and do not remember a single instance of prejudice because of color. Some were fair and some musicians who often performed at local dances. As the whole Tullis village may well claim to be an average community with no more delinquents and undisciplined than other places some are now in France at least three from the local colony and no doubt relatives from somewhere.

In the immediate vicinity is Zion Hill chapel not deliberately so named for the name grew with it. The colored people have been prominently connected with the white have predominated in its membership. Financially unable to maintain a pastor they have seldom been regular service but a Sunday school holds in the warm season with occasional Sunday service.

The highway at that point called Zion Hill has borne the name only since the chapel was built. It used to be called Granny Bates' Hill, perhaps I ought to know who Granny Bates was but I don't.

Midway on the hill on the north there used to be the remains of a cellar and a dingle nearby that was a well. This marked the residence of Sukeen Ward a reputed witch. The hill was formerly a very bad one - one of the steepest benches where

he is  
Tale  
told in  
and  
could  
man  
Wing  
or more  
time to  
supply  
since  
to the  
the trip  
who was  
he passed  
knew  
He  
consensus  
records  
I never  
to know  
distance  
no an



the. Their  
on of these  
found in  
is been  
from Wey.  
re 1800  
When born  
1 year and  
latter  
's surrounding  
in 1800  
cannot later  
much in  
re at road  
led school  
latter  
my own  
els in the  
civil

anything might happen to the traffic then & there  
might be stalled. business might break and loads  
slide off but every disaster was done to the evil eye  
of Sakej Word. I never heard that she was  
persecuted for meekness but she lived under the  
shadow of evil reports.  
In a field on the easterly side of Ward St-  
is the ruin of a cellar with good sized trees growing  
within the wall. This may or maynot have been  
the residence of one of whom I write but somewhere  
in the immediate vicinity of Lion's Hill lived Jim Webb  
The genealogist of the King. history is silent as to his  
birth. He first appear as an apprentice to Matthias Herry  
set-work cooper. It is further recorded that in married in  
1816 that seven children were born to him and that  
the family moved away to New Bedford.  
His claim to notariety and fame comes from an  
infirmitiy. I should think it was infirmitiy the that does  
not seem to have caused ill health since in that he  
required an enormous quantity of water. A large man



he is said to have a purpose at a time when he

Tales of his exploits were current for many years  
told in great ~~part~~ <sup>part</sup> and observed by his associates  
and, <sup>not</sup> believed by any father who told the stories to me.

His great dread was that of being flooded where he  
could not get water enough which he knew would  
mean suffering and death. That was a period when  
Wing was a fishing port and most everyone went one  
or more trips in a season. His father went once in a diff-  
-tence but Jim Webb never dared to go lest the water  
supply should give. His health appears to have been passing  
since he was able to work and bring up a family. Even so  
to the salt marches for he was never able to make  
the trip without stopping. It was usually a woman  
who responded to his request for a drink. Again I again  
he passed up the dipper for more and the server just  
knew that man would die before night.

He carried a painful tic bed every night and  
consumed it all before morning. The Wing history  
records that he was widely known among physicians  
& scientists of Boston and vicinity. We would like  
to know what became of him but out of the  
distance and silence of New Bedford there comes  
no answer.



was met so. The head on back of some of them  
was from and with day their dressing was finished

## The Gao Factory

Nine's was a class of men more independent  
and care free than those who made shoes in  
the little shops scattered everywhere about towns  
and other towns. Unworried by time clocks or  
daylight saving they earned their modest wages by  
making one pair, one and a half or two pairs each day.

Now and then some enterprising man would hire  
a gang" which means that by hiring three or four men  
and subdividing the work as an efficient expert might do  
he could turn off a case (12 pair) a day. I took the  
plan of my neighbor E. B. W. whose shop was an  
unfurnished chamber in his then new house.



It will be the duty of some future historian to write the story of the Finnish Colony now growing up in the woods around Tuttleville. They come from the granite districts of Quincy to bring up the children in better surroundings (so they say).

They seem thrifty and prosperous. If they live in a shack at first they almost immediately build a modern dwelling even a little better than that of the average workman.

They are well behaved. Language difficulties make them clammy. I have observed that the older ones do not acquire our language easily but children speak two tongues readily.